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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/562,682	12/28/2005	Jean-Pierre Marc	0501-1152	4061
<div>465 7590 05/13/2010</div> <div>YOUNG & THOMPSON 209 Madison Street Suite 500 Alexandria, VA 22314</div>				
EXAMINER				
KEE, FANNIE C				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3679				
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
05/13/2010		ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

DocketingDept@young-thompson.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/562,682

Applicant(s)

MARC ET AL.

Examiner

Fannie Kee

Art Unit

3679

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 August 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 December 2008 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/GS/US)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the body being produced in one piece with the second component must be shown or the feature canceled from claim 10. No new matter should be entered.
2. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

3. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because:
 - a. Line 4 - the word “interpenetratable” does not appear to be correctly spelled.
 - b. Line 5 – replace the word “sliding” with --slides--.
 - c. Line 6 – replace the word “oppositely” with --opposite--.
 - d. Lines 11-13 – “The device is used for...without any preliminary voluntary operation” should be deleted as the abstract should not speak to purported merits or uses. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Objections

4. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: delete “(18)” and “(4)” in line 11 to maintain consistency in the claims.

Correction is required.

5. Claim 1 is also objected to because of the following informalities: add the word --disconnectable-- before the words “coupling means” in line 14.

Correction is required.

6. Claim 2 is objected to because of the following informalities: add the word --disconnectable-- before the words “coupling means” in line 2.

Correction is required.

7. Claim 5 is objected to because of the following informalities: add the word --enclosing-- before the words "the coupling component" in line 3.

Correction is required.

8. Claim 7 is objected to because of the following informalities: replace the words "has its own" before the words "engagement formation" with --the body having an-- in line 4.

Correction is required.

9. Claim 11 is objected to because of the following informalities: add the word --locking-- before the word "device" in line 2.

Correction is required.

10. Claim 14 is objected to because of the following informalities: delete the word "-end" before the word "portions" in line 3.

Correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

11. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

12. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 14 recites “characterized in that the first and the second pipe end portions and the nut are standard non- modified components”. What does Applicant mean by "standard non-modified components"? What standard is Applicant comparing against? What does Applicant mean by non-modified components? Examiner is interpreting that any convenient component is a standard non-modified component.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

13. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

14. Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Marc et al U.S. Patent No. 5,851,035.

With regard to claim 1, Marc et al disclose a locking device *for a screw coupling, said screw coupling comprising first and second components rotatable in relation to one another during screwing and unscrewing, the first component comprising a first thread and a rotating engagement formation distant from the first thread, the locking device being mounted on the second component and comprising:*

- a coupling component (3) for coupling with the engagement formation,
- a stop component (4) connected for common rotation *with a body carried by the second component,*
- disconnectable coupling means (6, 7 – see Figure 1B) between the coupling component and the stop component,

characterized in that the coupling means comprises a ratchet allowing relative rotation in the direction of unscrewing *when a torque at least indirectly applied to the first and second components with respect to one another overcomes a predetermined elastic resistance.*

Note: the screw coupling is not a part of the claimed invention.

With regard to claim 2, Marc et al disclose the coupling means (6, 7) comprising axially pointing teeth (see Figure 1B) formed on the coupling component and on the stop component, which are urged towards one another by a spring (5) in the direction of teeth interpenetration.

With regard to claim 3, Marc et al disclose the coupling (3) and stop (4) components being axially movable *in relation to the body* and are commonly urged by the spring (5) *towards a stop provided in the body for the coupling component*.

Note: the screw coupling is not a part of the claimed invention.

With regard to claim 4, Marc et al disclose the coupling component (3) capable of being drawn back against a spring (5) and comprising a stop (42) *for engagement of a shoulder of the first component in order to limit the axial extent by which the coupling component is able to cover the engagement formation*.

Note: the screw coupling is not a part of the claimed invention.

With regard to claim 5, Marc et al disclose *the body capable of being formed as a cup enclosing the stop component and partially the coupling component*.

Note: the screw coupling is not a part of the claimed invention.

With regard to claim 6, Marc et al disclose the stop component (4) and the coupling component (3) being mounted *around a tube of the second component, which is internally threaded for screwing with the first component*.

Note: the screw coupling is not a part of the claimed invention.

With regard to claim 7, Marc et al disclose *the body capable of being fitted onto a second engagement formation integral with the second component and capable of having its own*

engagement formation which can be used in place of the second engagement formation in order to carry out the relative rotation of the first and second components by means of tools.

Note: the screw coupling is not a part of the claimed invention.

With regard to claim 8, Marc et al disclose *the body capable of being secured onto the second component by snap-fit.*

Note: the screw coupling is not a part of the claimed invention.

With regard to claim 9, Marc et al disclose *the body capable of being secured onto the second component by crimping.*

Note: the screw coupling is not a part of the claimed invention.

With regard to claim 10, Marc et al disclose *the body capable of being produced in one piece with the second component.*

Note: the screw coupling is not a part of the claimed invention.

With regard to claim 11, Marc et al disclose the device being adapted to be mounted as a single unit *onto the second component.*

Note: the screw coupling is not a part of the claimed invention.

With regard to claim 12, Marc et al disclose the device being entirely mounted *on the second component.*

Note: the screw coupling is not a part of the claimed invention.

With regard to claim 13, Marc et al disclose a pipe coupling comprising a first pipe end-portion (1) provided with an external thread (34), a second pipe end-portion (31), a nut (2) which is rotatably mounted on the second pipe end-portion and can be screwed on the external thread of the first pipe end-portion, and a locking device for selectively locking against relative rotation the nut and the first pipe end-portion provided with the external thread.

With regard to claim 14, Marc et al disclose the first and the second pipe end-end portions (1, 31) and the nut (2) being standard non- modified components.

With regard to claim 15, Marc et al disclose the coupling component (3) capable of being drawn back against the spring (5) and comprising a stop (42) *for engagement of a shoulder of the first component in order to limit the axial extent by which the coupling component is able to cover the engagement formation.*

Note: the screw coupling is not a part of the claimed invention.

Response to Arguments

15. Applicant's arguments filed 4/20/09 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

e. Applicant argues that Marc et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,293,595) does not anticipate claim 1 of the instant invention because unlocking is performed by pushing back the lock

axially in Marc et al and claim 1 recites that a rotating torque is used to overcome the locking resistance of the ratchet.

Examiner disagrees.

Claim 1 recites “disconnectable coupling means between the coupling component and the stop component, characterized in that *the coupling means comprises a ratchet allowing relative rotation in the direction of unscrewing* when a torque at least indirectly applied to the first and second components with respect to one another overcomes a predetermined elastic resistance”. Marc et al does disclose disconnectable coupling means (6, 7) comprising a ratchet allowing relative rotation in the direction of unscrewing. Applicant has not positively recited and claimed the first and second components of the screw coupling.

Conclusion

16. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

17. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Fannie Kee whose telephone number is (571) 272-1820. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on (571) 272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/AARON DUNWOODY/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3679

/F. K./
Examiner, Art Unit 3679
May 6, 2010